

Aged Care Sector Committee – Communiqué – 17 April 2020

The Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians, Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck, addressed the Committee, thanking Members for their high level of engagement and the overall performance of the aged care sector in responding to the COVID-19 situation.

Minister Colbeck discussed with Members the concerns of the Australian Government on the impact on older Australians mental health and well-being as a result of reduced visitation by family and friends to aged care facilities.

Members received an update from the Department, including the impact of COVID-19 on current aged care reform measures, and an overview of the Government's aged care measures in response to COVID-19.

Members discussed the progress of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, and noted the statement issued by Commissioner the Hon Tony Pagone QC on 27 March 2020 in relation to COVID-19 and the impact on older Australians.

Members discussed the proposed 2020 work plan for the Committee and agreed to the review of the Aged Care Roadmap as a priority. Members agreed to the creation of a time-limited working group for this purpose, chaired by Mr David Tune AO PSM. Members agreed to the continuance of the Committee's Quality and Diversity Sub-groups, chaired by Ms Andrea Coote and Ms Samantha Edmonds respectively.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 12 June 2020.